

Mrs Sue Waterhouse, Principal

*From the Principal....Merriwa ESC...*

Welcome back to a new school year. It has been a very encouraging week with students settling very quickly and staff establishing their routines, ensuring a positive start for all concerned.

I extend a warm welcome from Merriwa ESC to our new families and trust that you will feel settled over the coming weeks. I hope you will try to engage yourself in the various activities and committees in our school community over the year.

We currently have 33 students enrolled across the ESC and have created 6 classes, including the Early Intervention program. We welcome two new teachers: Ms Lyndsey Foy and Ms Amy McInerney and trust they will feel very much a part of the team before too long. Welcome back Ms Peta Tait who has returned part time from parenting leave.

Thank you to all our families for ensuring that students were ready for the school year, your assistance is appreciated and allows for a smooth start. It is also wonderful to see the students in uniform each day.

My staff and I look forward to working with you towards positive outcomes for your child. Please utilise your communication book and check it regularly for any messages, this is a convenient method of keeping everyone informed. Arrangements will be made over the next week to organise parent teacher information meetings at a time convenient to you, please keep an eye out for further information.

*Mrs Karen Macri,*

*Principal ESC*

### **School Attendance**

It is important to be at school every day.

To get the most of a good education, children need to come to school every day. School attendance has a major influence on educational outcomes. Students who attend regularly are more likely to achieve better results at school and are more likely to complete their schooling. Parents can make it easier for their child to attend school by having a positive attitude to learning and education. School attendance patterns commence in kindy and pre-primary. It is important that from the first day of school parents set an expectation that their children will be at school every day.

#### **Did you know?**

**Missing an average of ten days of school a term adds up to missing two full years of schooling by the end of Year 10.**

Tips you can do to support school attendance:

Talk positively about going to school and learning.

Help your child get into a routine for getting ready to go to school stress-free.

Help your child to get ready for school in the morning.

Talk about the positive social aspects of school, friends, favourite classes and subjects, favourite teachers.

Taking family holidays during school term can interrupt your child's education. If you are planning a family holiday during term please make an appointment to discuss this with Mrs Waterhouse, our school principal, to have your vacation leave authorised.

*Jeff Hoskins*

**Associate Principal**

## **Calling for volunteers – we need your help!**

Our students really enjoy participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program and to keep this program running we need your help.

The program requires a volunteer School Banking Co-ordinator to facilitate the banking and distribution of School Banking rewards. This only takes a small amount of your time one day a week and the Commonwealth Bank will provide support in how to run the program. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising.

Currently, School Banking day is Tuesday. If you are interested in volunteering for this great program, please fill in the tear off section below and return it to the office.

**Yes, I would like to help with School Banking!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Availability: \_\_\_\_\_

## Merriwa Primary School Staff 2016

Class	Teacher/s	Room
Kindergarten	Andrea Hollie	Room 3
	Kristie Avins & Teneale Hogan	Room 4
Pre Primary	Charon Thompson, Alex Allan	Room 1
	Terri Liddleow & Janelle Avins	Room 2
Year 1	Siobhan Morgan	Room 6
	Erin Purcell	Room 7
	Sophie Perkins & Therese Hutchinson	Room 9
Year 2	Sue Zainudin	Room 11
	Ahidan Barr	Room 12
	Philipa Hill & Jo Dorney	Room 13
Year 3	Renee Rogers	Room 10
	Judy Mair & Tracy Hanratty	Room 21
Year 3 & 4	Cathy Hay	Room 22
Year 4	Di Reweti	Room 19
Year 4 & 5	Nikki Nelson ( & Louise Carroll Term 2)	Room 15
Year 5 & 6	Ben Collins	Room 16
	Shonagh McKenzie	Room 17
	Lynda Radich & Allison Ebert	Room 18
Science	Ben Allan	Room 14
Music	Rose Prior	Music Room
Physical Education	Chris Leonard	
LOTE/Italian	Melissa Zoccali	Room 20

### PIZZA LUNCH—FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY

The P & C will be hosting the first pizza lunch for 2016! Pizza will be ordered from Eagle Boys and given to the the students at lunch on Friday 19 February.

Boxes come with 2 slices of the same flavour pizza and cost \$4. Different type of pizza cannot be put in the same box, but students may order more than one box if desired. Order forms have been sent home, so please return your orders with money in an envelope with the child's class and name on it.



Our first P and C meeting is on Tuesday 16 February at 1.30p.m. in the staff room. Come along and see how you can help to raise money for our children!

New Joondalup Autism Mum's Group  
Coffee Mornings

Following the success of the Northern Suburbs Autism Mum's Group, Developmental Disability WA are supporting a new group that has started in the Joondalup area.

**Clarkson Library**  
**27 Ocean Keys Boulevard, Clarkson**

Please join us for an informal coffee morning and meet other mums who understand how challenging life with autism can be.....

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am – 12.00pm**  
**(You can come later or leave earlier if you need to)**

**Coffee and Tea provided**

For more information about the group and dates contact one of the group Coordinators

**Helen on 0413 123 615 [holistichealthau@gmail.com](mailto:holistichealthau@gmail.com).**

**Gill on 0401 257 093 [infohldcs@gmail.com](mailto:infohldcs@gmail.com)**

Student Council Speeches

Those year 6 students who have nominated for a position on this year's student council will be presenting their speeches at 8.40am in the school's undercover area, Friday. We wish all the students good luck with their speeches. The election will be carried out immediately following the speeches. Students in years 4 to 6 will be allowed to vote.

Hopefully Head Girl and Boy and Councillor badges will be presented at the following weeks assembly. Parents of the successful candidates will be contacted next week.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a lot of lost property that needs to be collected. If you have lost jumpers, hats etc. please come to the office and have a look through the lost property.

***Would \$500 assist you with education costs?***  
***Would you like to build on your money management skills?***



Join Saver Plus and match your savings dollar for dollar, **up to \$500**, for education costs including school uniforms and text books, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition. Gain some new skills too.

To be eligible you must:

- have a child at school or starting next year AND
- have a Centrelink Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card AND
- have some form of income from work, for example, you or your partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment.

Call or SMS Meagan your local Saver Plus Coordinator at The Smith Family on 9440 4147 or 0438 518 603

**PLAYGROUP**  
**MERRIWA PRIMARY**  
**SCHOOL**

**0 - 3 year olds**

**TERM 1**  
**STARTING FRIDAY**  
**12TH FEBRUARY**  
**IN ROOM 5**  
**8.45AM—11.00AM**

**Please register your interest at the office.**

SUN SCREEN

Please make sure you apply sunscreen to your children before sending them to school as the days are becoming very hot and it is vital that they are protected. Staff will remind children to reapply their sunscreen during the school day.



Sunscreen is listed on the school booklist so please ensure that you send it in to the classroom where it will be kept.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to the parent who have already paid their Voluntary Contributions. Voluntary Contributions can be paid at the school office.

Kindy—Year 6—\$40  
One Child—\$40.00  
Two Children \$80.00  
Three or more children—\$120.00